SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

"Sonic's Nightmare"

(238-209)

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ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. THE GREAT PLAIN - DAY

CAMERA PANS the bleak terrain, the sun a dull orb squinting through a pall of smoke from the City. In the distance, a familiar dust trail appears. Moving like a bullet, it quickly FILLS THE SCREEN as SONIC ZOOMS into view as we HEAR:

SALLY'S VOICE
Sonic, where were you when the brains were handed out?

Sonic jams on the brakes, looks around, then REACTS to something O.S.

SONIC'S POV

SALLY in the distance. A hazy, mirage-like feeling to the image. Suddenly, she's grabbed by a SWAT-BOT and strapped into a portable Robotisizer Tube. ROBOTNIK looks on, arms folded across his huge chest.

SONIC

revs up and speeds to the rescue.

NEW ANGLE

Sonic approaches a long, rickety bridge that separates him from Sally. As he rockets across, there is the sound of violent, CRACKING THUNDER. He looks up.

SONIC'S POV - MOVING

As the sky abruptly darkens with fast-moving black clouds. They open up, releasing a torrent of green-ish, smoking rain.

SONIC

slows down, then comes to a jarring halt. He looks down to see that the wet ground has turned to MEGA-MUCK. He's stuck. He struggles to pull free, but can't. He strains, gives one last try, then finally breaks loose and SCORCHES O.S.

THE BRIDGE

Sonic starts across, moving like a shot. The bridge suddenly collapses, plunging Sonic into a bottomless, dark chasm. As he plummets, he hears Sally's words repeat...

SALLY'S VOICE
Sonic, where were you when the brains were handed out?

SONIC

continues to fall. He sees the haunting image of a robotisized Sally being pulled from Robotnik's dreaded machine and SCREAMS in terror.

SONIC
(long, falling SCREAM)

CUT TO:

INT. SONIC'S HUT - KNOTHOLE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Sonic as he springs up in bed, still SCREAMING. Eyes wide. Heart THUMPING. He realizes he was having a terrifying nightmare.

SONIC
(a SCREAM as he sits up, then breathless:)
Man, I've gotta stop eatin' my own cookin'.

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE MEETING AREA - MORNING

ROTOR seated at the meeting table, poring over diagrams of Robotnik's factories. Sonic comes up beside him.

SONIC
Yo, Rote...what's up?

ROTOR
Same ol', same ol', Sonic.

SONIC
You know anything about dreams?

ROTOR
Dreams? Not much. Sally told me they're usually about some kinda personal fear.

SONIC

nods and scratches his head as Sally runs in, excited.

SALLY
Guys. Guys. Nicole just intercepted one of Robotnik's transmissions. *

SONIC
I know it's not good news.

SALLY
No. It's terrible news. *

She punches button on her mini-computer.

SALLY
Nicole...replay intercepted transmission...

NICOLE
Replaying, Sally...

NEW ANGLE

As Nicole plays back a FUZZY RECORDING of Robotnik communicating with a Swat-Bot unit. The STATIC-FILLED message repeatedly breaks up. During this, PAN IN CLOSE-UP the faces of Sonic, Rotor and Sally all listening intently.

ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
Attention, Swat-Bot unit one...prepare chemical payload for cloud seeding...rendevous with Cloud Burster on island of Nimbus...precisely twelve hundred hours...coordinates to follow...

SALLY
That's all of it.

ROTOR
He's gonna seed clouds with chemicals?

SALLY
(nods)
Toxic rain.

SONIC
What's a little more toxic rain? The City's already fumin' with the stuff.

ROTOR
I bet it's another one of Robotnik's crummy traps. *

SALLY
You're probably right, Rotor, but we don't know for sure. If that island is inhabited, we need to warn the people. *

SONIC
That's no prob, but what about dustin' Butt-Nik's acid rain? *

CLOSE ON SALLY

She smiles, points to her temple.

SALLY
I have the ol' plan.

CUT TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - ROTOR'S STOREROOM - DAY

Rotor grabs the door knob of his outhouse-sized storeroom and turns to Sonic, Sally, Antoine and Bunnie behind him.

ROTOR
Stand back, guys. This could be ugly. *

They move back. Rotor opens the door and tries to jump aside, but is buried by the avalanche of junk that comes ROARING out.

BUNNIE
Oh, my stars! And I thought my closet was a mess.

ROTOR

pops up from beneath the junk pile, then starts to root around, searching for something. Sonic TAPS his foot.

SONIC
We're wai-i-iting....

ROTOR
I know they're in here someplace...

Rotor tosses aside tools, a mini-launcher, an air plane propeller, etc.

ROTOR
Aha! Here's one!

He holds up a Swat-Bot uniform.

ANTOINE

looks worried, chews on a nail.

ANTOINE
How many are you having, Rotor?

ROTOR
Three. One for Sally, Bunnie and you.

ANTOINE
(little squeak of fear)

SALLY

puts on her Bot head and turns to Sonic.

SALLY
Well...do I look like a Swat-Bot?

WIDER ANGLE

Before Sonic can answer, TAILS ENTERS SHOT, spots "Swat-Bot" Sally and...

TAILS
Help!! Swat-Bot!! I'm juicin'!

Tails races O. S.

SONIC
(with a grin)
Nah. It'll never work.

WIPE TO:

EXT. THE GREAT PLAIN - DAY

From this HIGH ANGLE, we see a small convoy of SWAT-BOT vehicles escorting the CLOUD BURSTER, a huge, jet-black metallic dirigible-like craft that sits atop a long trailer pulled by a tank-like LAND ROVER. Several Swat-Bots stand guard on the trailer. They pass by...

A GROUP OF ROCKS

as three Bot heads poke up into view.

"BOT" #2 (BUNNIE)
Stars alive. Would'ya look at the size of that ugly ol' thing.

"BOT" #1 (SALLY)
That must be the Cloud Burster.

They look around at a loud KNOCKING sound. It's Antoine's knees.

BUNNIE

reaches down and grabs Antoine's knees with her robotic hand. He forces a toothy grin.

ANTOINE
Is very cold, no?

BUNNIE
"No" is right.
(pause)
Relax, Antoine.

ANTOINE
(nervous)
I am chilling.

SALLY
Ready, Bunnie?

BUNNIE
I'm <u>always</u> ready, sugar.

SALLY
Do it.

BUNNIE

produces a smoke bomb, cocks her robotic arm and slingshots the bomb O.S.

THE CONVOY

As the bomb sails out ahead of the lead vehicle and EXPLODES into a cloud of yellow smoke. The convoy grinds to a halt behind the big Land Rover.

CUT TO:

INT. LAND ROVER COCKPIT - DAY

A TECH-BOT drives, SNIVELY beside him, peering out through windshield at the O.S. smoke. He speaks into hand-mic.

SNIVELY
Swat-Bots, see what that smoke is about. *

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVOY - DAY

Three Swat-Bots move from Cloud Burster trailer toward the smoke, their laser rifles held at port-arms as...

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

peer out from behind the rocks. Antoine still shaking.

SALLY
They're in the smoke. Let's go.

Sally, Bunnie and Antoine move O.S.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CLOUD BURSTER TRAILER

Bunnie hops up onto a catwalk, then pulls Sally and Antoine up with her powerful arm. They move forward toward the...

CONTROL ROOM

Sally tries the steel door. It's locked.

BUNNIE
I'll open it, sugah. *

Sally steps aside as...

Bunnie grabs the handle with one hand and pulls. The door CREAKS and buckles, then WHOOSH! It pops open with a HISS of escaping air. Sally is about to enter when:

ANTOINE (O.S.)
Mes cheries! Swat-Bots they are coming. *

BUNNIE AND SALLY

turn to see the three Swat-Bots emerge from the smoke cloud, headed back to the convoy.

SALLY
Guard the door. It won't take me long.

She disappears inside, door HISSING closed behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

A small, cockpit-like room. Control console covered with a complex array of high-tech switches, buttons, gauges and dials. A security monitor is above the panel. Sally pulls off her Bot head, inserts a plug from her computer into the dirigible's electronic brain.

SALLY
Nicole...access Cloud Burster security code.

NICOLE
Attempting access, Sally.

CLOSE ON

the Cloud Burster computer's digital indicator. Numbers whiz by as Nicole searches for the code.

SALLY

looks up at the security monitor that gives view of catwalk outside, where a single Swat-Bot approaches.

SALLY
(to herself)
Come on, Nicole...

THE INDICATOR

As numbers whir by.

CUT TO:

EXT. CATWALK OUTSIDE CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Bunnie and Antoine stand on opposite sides of door as we hear CLUNK of approaching Bot FOOTSTEPS.

ANTOINE
He's coming. What are we doing?

BUNNIE
Just keep your cute lil' ol' knees quiet, Antoine, and we'll be fine.

NEW ANGLE

The Swat-Bot stops opposite Bunny and Antoine, stares at them with his red eyes.

SWAT-BOT-ONE
Return to station.

ANTOINE AND BUNNY

exchange a look, then Bunnie moves off. Antoine follows, but trips over the Swat-Bot's foot and falls, losing his Swat-Bot "head" in the process. Antoine feels his own head, then looks up at the...

SWAT-BOT

as he snaps up his laser rifle, points it at...

ANTOINE

who looks terrified, as...

BUNNIE

makes a move toward the Bot, but...

SWAT-BOT-TWO (O.S.)
Halt.

She turns to see another Bot behind her, rifle trained on her. She freezes.

BUNNIE
I sure do hate when this happens. *

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - CONTROL ROOM

CLOSE ON monitor where we see Bunnie and Antoine covered by the Swat-Bots. PULL BACK as Sally stares at the screen with concern.

NICOLE
First digit in place, Sally...

Sally's eyes flick to...

THE TIMER

as more numbers whiz by. Then, the second number locks into place.

NICOLE
Second digit, Sally.

SALLY

looks back up at the monitor as Bunnie and Antoine are led off at gunpoint. But then another Swat-Bot appears, his face filling the monitor screen as he moves toward the Control Room.

SALLY (O.S.)
Hurry, Nicole!

SALLY

turns at the sound of HISSING AIR LOCKS, reaches for her Bot head as...

THE DOOR

BURSTS open revealing the Swat-Bot, who has his laser rifle trained on Sally. CAMERA ZOOMS to her reaction as we...

CUT TO:

INT. LAND ROVER - (PLANNING ROOM) - DAY

Snively sits with his back TO CAMERA, poring over blueprints and diagrams of the Cloud Burster.

SWAT-BOT-ONE (O.S.)
Intruders, Sir.

SNIVELY
Intruders?

Snively rises as the Swat-Bots escort Sally, Bunnie and Antoine (minus their Bot heads) into the room. Snively smiles.

SNIVELY
Well, well, wolves in Swat-Bot clothing. Dr. Robotnik will be pleased.

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Trying to be brave (except for Antoine) as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF VERY GREAT RIVER - DAY

As Sonic races along the edge of the Very Great River. He SCREECHES to a stop, checks a hand-drawn map, then peers out across the River toward...

A SMALL ISLAND

in the middle. An old, broken-down monorail tube leads to it.

SONIC
That's gotta be Nimbus.

CUT TO:

INT. MONORAIL TUBE - DAY

Deserted. Plexiglass cracked and broken. Metal braces collapsing. Sonic races toward us and PAST CAMERA as we PAN to see him ROAR through the tube, headed for the island.

CUT TO:

EXT. MONORAIL TUBE - NIMBUS ISLAND - DAY

Sonic BULLETS out of the tube, SKIDS to a hairy stop and looks around.

SONIC'S POV

He's smack in the middle of a series of futuristic Quonset huts, separated by a dirt street. Behind the huts are the towering super structures of numerous oil derricks. An eerie wind WHISTLES through a maze of above-ground tubes and pipes that criss-cross the island. Nimbus is nothing but an abandoned oil refinery. An industrial ghost town.

SONIC
(calls out)
Yo! Anybody home?

His VOICE ECHOES back as we...

CUT TO:

INT. REFINERY OFFICE - DAY

BLACK SCREEN. SCREECH of SKIDDING tennis shoes from O.S., then the door BANGS open, throwing a bar of light inside. Sonic stands silhouetted in the doorway. He peers in. Rats scurry for cover.

SONIC
Anybody here besides you rats?

EXT. REFINERY OFFICE - DAY

As a gust of wind BLOWS THE DOOR SHUT right in his face.

SONIC
Guess not.
(pause)
I'm outta here.

He ROARS O.S.

CUT TO:

EXT. BANK OF VERY GREAT RIVER - MONORAIL TUBE - DAY

Sonic ROCKETS out of the tube and off into the distance as we...

WIPE TO:

EXT. EDGE OF GREAT FOREST - DAY

Sonic ROARS in, SKIDS UP and looks around. Place looks deserted.

SONIC
(calls out)
Sal? Ant? Where are you guys?
(checks his watch)
Better check out that convoy.

Sonic TEARS OUT in a blaze of red sneakers.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREAT PLAIN - DAY

CLOSE ON a Swat-Bot "head" lying in the dirt. Hear Sonic approach, then his sneakers SKID INTO SHOT. His hand picks up the head and we PAN UP TO his face as he inspects the head.

POV INTO HEAD

Where we see Antoine's name hand-lettered.

SONIC (O.S.)
Antoine's.

SONIC

As CAMERA MOVES IN CLOSE on the worried Hedgehog and we...

WIPE TO:

EXT. NIMBUS ISLAND - DAY

Wind HOWLS through the abandoned oil fields and industrial plants as CAMERA PANS the island and finds a team of SECURITY BOTS loading oil-drum sized canisters labeled "DANGER" aboard the...

CLOUD BURSTER

sitting atop the land rover. The dirigible cuts an imposing figure with its sleek, black steel body and massive size. It casts a giant shadow on the Security-Bots that move beneath it and onto a...

LOADING DOCK

fifty feet below, where Sally, Bunnie and Antoine (now minus their Swat-Bot uniforms) are being held. Swat-Bots secure their legs and arms with futuristic-looking clamps.

SALLY

defiantly yanks her arm from a Swat-Bot's grasp.

SALLY
What's wrong with your "great leader?" Is he too chicken to confront us himself?

At that moment, Robotnik's VOICE BOOMS OUT.

ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
Such a challenging tone.

ANTOINE

quakes in his Bot boots as ROBOTNIK emerges from the darkness of the loading dock doorway, CLUCK perched on his arm.

ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
Hardly appropriate for a Princess. Not to mention the slander of Cluck's species.

CLUCK

SNAPS his metal jaws inches from Sally's wide-eyed face as...

ROBOTNIK

gets eyeball-to-eyeball with her.

ROBOTNIK
Where is the Hedgehog?

SALLY
In your dreams, Doctor.

ROBOTNIK

leans back and smiles like a barracuda.

ROBOTNIK
No matter. Patience is one of my strong points. He'll be along.

BUNNIE AND ANTOINE

exchange worried looks with Sally as we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT. BANK OF GREAT RIVER - DAY

Sonic RACES along the river bank, following the convoy's tracks. As he comes around a sharp bend, he looks up, then SKIDS to a stop at the sight of...

THE CLOUD BURSTER

hovering high above the tree line.

SONIC
Uh-oh. *

Sonic SPEEDS off toward the Cloud Burster.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLOUD BURSTER - DAY

CAMERA MOVES IN as we hear:

ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
Re-check all functions. *

INT. CLOUD BURSTER CONTROL ROOM - DAY

A TECH-BOT sits at the big control board, pushing buttons as Robotnik looks over its shoulder.

ROBOTNIK
There will be no errors. *

SNIVELY (O.S.)
Dr. Robotnik...

Robotnik turns toward...

SNIVELY

who watches one screen on a bank of monitors.

SNIVELY (CONT'D)
The Guest of Honor has arrived.

THE MONITOR

shows Sonic scooting along the River bank.

ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
Let the party begin.

CUT TO:

EXT. BANK OF VERY GREAT RIVER - DAY

Sonic comes to a SCREE-EECHING halt at the monorail tube. He cups one hand over his eyes and peers across the River.

SONIC'S POV

of Sally, Antoine and Bunnie incarcerated on the far side, the Cloud Burster hovering above them.

BACK TO SHOT

Sonic cups both hands to his mouth and SHOUTS:

SONIC
Hang tough, guys! I'm there in a nano-sec.

He rears up and BLASTS O.S.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - ROBOTNIK

watches his monitor screen as Sonic ROARS into the Monorail tube.

ROBOTNIK
Welcome, Hedgehog. You're right on time.
(pause)
Get ready, Snively. *

CUT TO:

INT. MONORAIL TUBE

Sonic CHURNS through the long tube, his legs a blur.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - ROBOTNIK

watching monitor screen. Snively beside him, his finger poised over a large red button.

ROBOTNIK
(a pause, then:)
Now, Snively.

Snively hits the button and...

CUT TO:

INT. MONORAIL TUBE - SONIC

REACTS to an EXPLOSION behind him. He snaps a look over his shoulder and...

SONIC'S POV - MOVING

sees a fast-moving FIREBALL barreling straight TOWARD CAMERA. It FILLS THE SCREEN.

ON SONIC - MOVING

He REACTS and...

SONIC
Whoaa!! Better hit the ol' after- burners!

He turns up the juice and ZOOMS O.S. in a blur. A BEAT later, the fireball ROARS through SHOT.

CUT TO:

EXT. NIMBUS SIDE OF MONORAIL TUBE - DAY

Sonic comes VA-RROOOMING out of the tube, hits the ground on both feet, bounces like a rock skipping across the water and BULLETS O.S., the fireball right on his tail.

ON SONIC - MOVING

looking back over his shoulder.

SONIC
Time to douse this fire. *

NEW ANGLE

As Sonic makes a sharp, SKIDDING U-Turn and heads for...

THE GREAT RIVER

He ROARS into the River and disappears under water. The fireball follows and disintegrates in a cloud of HISSING STEAM.

Sonic comes racing back out, SKIDS to a stop and looks off at the sound of O.S. CRASHING to see...

THE MONORAIL TUBE

CRUMBLE into the River, leaving no access to or from the island.

ROBOTNIK (O.S.)
Now I have you, Hedgehog.

SONIC

looks up to see Robotnik's dirigible rise above some clouds. Robotnik's VOICE BOOMS out of the craft's P.A.

ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
Take a look around. *

Sonic looks around to see that he's surrounded by Swat-Bots, laser rifles leveled.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - ROBOTNIK

watches Sonic on the monitor and speaks into portable hand mic.

ROBOTNIK
I hoped the Great Sonic would be more of a challenge. You disappoint me. *

CUT TO:

EXT. MONORAIL TUBE - DAY

As the Swat Bots close in, Sonic waits to make his move.

SONIC
(calls out)
It ain't over 'til the Fat-Bot sings, Ro-Buttnik.

He backpeddles, luring the Bots closer to...

THE RIVER'S EDGE

He stands atop a low ledge directly above the water and pretends he's caught his foot in some mud.

SONIC
Oh man. Mondo problemo. *

As Swat Bots close in to take him, Sonic "yanks" his foot from the mud and...

SONIC
Sorry, Bolt-Brains, gotta juice.

SONIC

ZIPS out of the way at the last instant and sends the Swat-Bots tumbling over the edge and into the River where the water SHORT-CIRCUITS their wiring.

SONIC

peers over the edge and looks down at the SPARKING Bots.

SONIC
Oh, forgot to tell ya...watch that first step. *

Sonic turns and ROARS off.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOADING DOCK AREA- DAY

where Sally and the others are now imprisoned in a high-tech cell constructed of energy bars. Sonic SKIDS into SHOT.

SONIC
Chill, guys. I'll bust you outta there.

He reaches toward the glowing bars.

SALLY
Sonic, don't touch the bars!

Sonic freezes.

SONIC
Why not? *

SALLY
Because they'll repel you. *

BUNNIE
To say nothin' of knockin' y'all on your little ol' be-hind. *

SALLY
Besides, we're not the important thing at the moment. *

SONIC
You're not? *

ANTOINE
You know, I am thinking to disagree with you, ma Princesse, but--

SALLY
Antoine, if we don't stop Robotnik, we'll be swimming in <u>real</u> acid rain.
(points) *
Look for yourself.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS' POV

As the massive airship slowly rises above the field of high-tech oil rigs.

SONIC

shakes his head as he stares skyward.

SONIC
Gotta be a way to take out that sucker. *

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Robotnik smiles like the Cheshire Cat as he observes Sonic on his monitor.

SNIVELY
Cloud Burster in position, Sir.

ROBOTNIK
Prepare to begin seeding.

SNIVELY

reaches out. We follow his finger as he goes for a...

TOGGLE SWITCH

marked "RELEASE" and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK AREA - SONIC'S POV - DAY

The Freedom Fighters watch as the Cloud Burster moves into position and prepares to deliver its lethal payload.

SONIC
That thing's gonna chunk.

ANTOINE
Sacre bleu! What can we be doing? *

CLOSE SHOT - SONIC

CAMERA MOVES IN as the Hedgehog's eyes dart back and forth between the Cloud Burster and his trapped friends. He looks a little dazed.

SALLY (O.S.)
(reverb)
Sonic, we have to do something.

Sonic's eyes stare wide, unblinking. Sweat beads his forehead and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GREAT PLAIN - HIGH ANGLE (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Sonic races across the Plain.

SONIC'S POV

Sally in the distance. CAMERA ZOOMS IN to reveal that she's being strapped into the Robotisizer Tube.

SONIC - MOVING

His eyes widen with terror as he sees...

ROBOTNIK

reach for the Robotisizer switch in agonizing SLOW MOTION and...

CUT TO:

EXT. NIMBUS - (PRESENT DAY)

As the Freedom Fighters stare at the near-catatonic Sonic.

BUNNIE
What the hey is eatin' that hunky ol' hedgehog? He looks like he's seen a ghost. *

SALLY
He seems to be day-dreaming. We have to snap him out of it. *

SALLY

looks up as the cargo doors beneath Robotnik's airship start to open.

SALLY (CONT'D)
...or we're all done for.

ANTOINE
(panicky)
Sonic, you unciviliz-ed peen cushion! Wake up! Wake up!! *

CLOSE - SONIC

Still in his "dream state," as we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT III

FADE IN:

EXT. NIMBUS - PRESENT - DAY

Sally, Antoine and Bunnie all stare at the still-dazed Sonic.

SALLY
Sonic, it's Sally. Can you hear me?

CLOSE - SONIC

stares off as his name RINGS in his ears.

SALLY'S VOICE
Sonic...Sonic...Sonic...

DISSOLVE TO:

GREAT PLAIN (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Sonic repeatedly pulls at his feet that are now stuck in Mega-Muck, trying desperately to free himself. Sally's VOICE from his dream and her cries to him (in the present) overlap.

SALLY'S VOICE
Sonic, where were you...when the brains...Sonic, we need your help!...Sonic...Can you hear me, Sonic?...

THE CAMERA ZOOMS IN on Sonic's wide-eyed stare as his mind fills with the frightening image of...

SALLY (DREAM SEQUENCE)

being Robotisized! We see her flesh slowly turning into metal as she SCREAMS.

SALLY
(terror-filled SCREAM)

FRAME FILLS with Robo-Sally's metallic features.

ROBOTIC SALLY
(a hollow ECHO)
Sonic, where were you when the brains were handed out...
brains...brains...brains...

HIGH ANGLE (DREAM SEQUENCE)

CAMERA MOVES straight down into SONIC'S face as he drops to his knees in the MUCK. The rain SLASHES at his face as Sonic SCREAMS.

SONIC
(SCREAMS in terror)

CUT TO:

EXT. NIMBUS ISLAND - (PRESENT DAY)

CLOSE ON Sonic as his own SCREAM brings him back to reality. He looks around and sees...

SALLY, BUNNIE AND ANTOINE

staring at him from within the glowing energy-cell.

SALLY
Sonic, hurry. He's about to release the acid rainstorm.

CLOSE - SONIC

His brow furrows as he stares skyward, straining for an idea.

SONIC
Gotta use my brain...

THE CLOUD BURSTER

As the a trace of green-ish chemical powder starts to seep from the huge metal canisters attached to the bottom of the dirigible.

SALLY (O.S.)
Hurry, Sonic!!

WIDE - SONIC

As he eyes the abandoned oil field, then looks up at the Cloud Burster hovering above the broken-down wells.

SONIC
Man, if there was someway to use those wells, I could make it rain on ol' Butt-Nik's parade.

SALLY
But they dried up long ago. They're dust wells now.

SONIC

smiles as if a lightbulb went on over his head.

SONIC
Sal, you just gave me a past cool idea. Gotta juice! *

He revs up the jets and PEELS out.

WIDER ANGLE

As Sonic ROARS into the oil field and SKIDS to a halt alongside one of the old wells.

CLOSE - SONIC

As he looks up.

SONIC'S POV

We see that the well is directly beneath the Cloud Burster.

BACK TO SHOT

Sonic grins as he stares at the hovering airship, then cups both hands to his mouth and:

SONIC
(yells)
Yo, Robutt-nik!

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - ROBOTNIK

stares at his monitor screen. We see Sonic looking up at him.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Gotta little surprise. *

ROBOTNIK
I don't like surprises,
Hedgehog. Especially from you.

SONIC
But this one'll be a kick. *
Promise.

CUT TO:

EXT. OIL FIELD - SONIC

launches into his SUPER-SONIC-SPIN. Dirt begins to fly.

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

shield their eyes as dirt and rocks bounce off the energy bars.

ANTOINE
What is that fuelish Sonic *
doing?

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - ROBOTNIK

watches Sonic on the monitor. Snively is beside him.

ROBOTNIK
What is that miserable rodent doing?

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND - SONIC

SPINS and WHIRLS straight down like a power drill as he burrows deep into the earth. He hears a loud CLANKING noise, pauses, then continues his spin until he's revealed the base of a huge metal derrick.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Sonic continues spinning until he's widened his furrow and has unearthed the entire base of the derrick. He looks up to see...

THE WELL PUMP

A huge, gear-driven mechanism attached to the pump base. It's worn and rusted and caked with dirt and mud. Sonic leaps atop one of the giant gears.

SONIC
Time for Hedgehog power.

Sonic juices into high gear, running in place atop the biggest gear. His sneakers smoke as the old gears GRIND and CREAK.

CLOSER ANGLE

As the rusted mechanism slowly begins to turn, activating the pump. The old well RATTLES and RUMBLES as it begins sucking dirt and rocks into the pump with a powerful vacuuming action.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WELL

continues to RUMBLE along with the ground, which has now started to shake.

CUT TO:

INT. THE CLOUD BURSTER - CONTROL ROOM - ROBOTNIK

looks at a monitor showing Sally, Bunnie and Antoine in their Energy Cage.

ROBOTNIK
It appears that your foolish war against me is finally lost, Princess.

CLOSE - ROBOTNIK

As he REACTS to the sound of the tremendous, earthquake-type RUMBLING.

ROBOTNIK
Snively, what is that? *

SNIVELY
I suppose it's the Hedgehog, Sir.

ROBOTNIK
I don't like that sound. Change our course.

CUT TO:

EXT. OIL FIELD - DAY

HIGH ANGLE on the oil well as it suddenly ERUPTS, sending a geyser of rock, dirt and then OIL GUSHING SKYWARD with the force of a volcano. *

ANGLE ON CLOUD BURSTER

CAMERA SHAKES violently as the blast of oil and rock hit the airship and send it reeling, and we... *

CUT TO:

INT. CLOUD BURSTER - CONTROL ROOM

Robotnik, Snively and the Tech-Bots SLAM into the control panel as the craft tosses about like a balloon in a wind tunnel as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. CLOUD BURSTER

As the aircraft is engulfed in a gigantic gyser of oil, causing it to list heavily to one side. *

INT. CLOUD BURSTER

As oil pours through portholes and ventilation shafts. *

ROBOTNIK
Snively. Get us out of here.

CUT TO:

EXT. NIMBUS - LOADING DOCK - DAY

Bunnie and Antoine watch as Robotnik's deadly craft spins out of control. But Sally's attention is elsewhere: on the oil field where Sonic went under.

BUNNIE
That little ol' sugar-hog did it, Sal. He knocked Robotnik for a real loop. Wooeee!

SALLY

A look of concern on her face as she stares at the field.

SALLY
(nervously; to herself)
Where are you, Sonic?

Just then, the ground RUMBLES beneath them. CAMERA SHAKES as Sally looks and sees...

SONIC

BLASTING out of the ground. Dirt and rocks scatter as the Hedgehog comes flying out, somersaults and lands on his still-smoking sneakers beside the glowing cell.

SALLY
Sonic!

The Freedom Fighters hardly recognize him: the famous blue Hedgehog has turned oily black. *

SALLY (CONT'D)
Are you all right?

SONIC
(breathing heavily)
Nothin' a serious shake 'n snake can't fix. *

SONIC

shakes himself off like a dog (only twice as fast) and when the dust clears, he's his blue self again. He looks up.

SONIC'S POV - THE CLOUD BURSTER

reels from the effects of the dirt-geyser's EXPLOSION as the well continues to propel its powerful stream into the sky.

SONIC (O.S.)
Check it out. It's a gusher.

INT. CLOUD BURSTER

Robotnik and Snively are knee-deep in oil as the control room rapidly fills up. As black smoke rises from the console, the two rush through an open hatch. *

INT. CLOUD BURSTER MAIN CABIN

Robotnik and Snively move down a short escalator and enter this small room beneath the control room, where they climb into a high-tech escape pod.

INT. ESCAPE POD

Snively frantically flipping switches. *

ROBOTNIK
Hurry, Snively. We are going to crash.

EXT. CLOUD BURSTER

As the dirigible plummets, trailing black smoke.

INT. ESCAPE POD

As the airship plunges behind a section of towering oil derricks, Snively hits a button marked "LAUNCH POD," detaching it from the doomed dirigible.

ROBOTNIK
Activate stealth system.

Snively hits another button on the console.

EXT. THE ESCAPE POD

becomes invisible.

INT. ESCAPE POD - ROBOTNIK'S MONITOR

We see the craft rising up above the derricks.

EXT. NIMBUS - THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

watch as the Cloud Burster CRASHES behind the derricks, sending up a tower of smoke. Then slowly, one of the giant derricks starts starts to topple over. *

NEW ANGLE *

As the derrick falls across the river with a mighty CRASH, creating a bridge to the mainland. *

EXT. NIMBUS - THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

stare toward the crashed airship in disbelief.

BUNNIE
I do believe Robotnik has finally bought the farm. *

ANTOINE
He has a farm? *

SALLY
I can't believe it.

CUT TO:

INT. ESCAPE POD - ROBOTNIK'S MONITOR

Robotnik observes the four Freedom Fighters.

ROBOTNIK
(to himself)
A clever maneuver, Hedgehog...

He reaches for a button on the pod's console marked "MISSILE LAUNCHER."

ROBOTNIK (CONT'D)
But the final move is mine.

CLOSE - ON CONSOLE

Robotnik poises his finger above launch button and watches as...

THE MONITOR

As Sonic and the trapped Freedom Fighters come into range. They're sitting ducks.

SNIVELY
Dr. Robotnik, we've sustained major damage to the main circuitry.

THE CONSOLE

Warning lights blink wildly.

ROBOTNIK
Get it under control.

Console starts to smoke.

An ALARM sounds.

SNIVELY
Sir, we must return to Robotropolis immediately or risk crashing. *

ROBOTNIK

eyes the monitor, reaches for the "MISSILE LAUNCH" button.

ROBOTNIK
Goodbye, Hedgehog.

He hits the "MISSILE LAUNCH" button. Nothing happens. Frustrated, he presses it again and again.

ROBOTNIK
Why won't the missile launch?

SNIVELY
Circuit grids are severely damaged, Sir. We must turn back before we lose all power. *

ROBOTNIK
SMASHES his fist down on the console. *

CUT TO: *

EXT. NIMBUS - DAY

Sonic VA-ROOMS back to the energy cell, SKIDS to a stop.

SALLY
Any sign of Robotnik?

SONIC
Nope. He's toast. *
(pause)
Now how do I get you guys outta that chicken coop?

Suddenly, CAMERA SHAKES violently as the ground RUMBLES.

ANTOINE
Sacre bleu! What is happening? *

SONIC
Good question, Ant. Felt like a quake.

WIDER ANGLE

As water from the River starts to rise above a nearby bank.

BUNNIE
Oh my stars! The river's overflowin'.

More RUMBLING as the giant oil wells start to sway.

SALLY

looks around. Her eyes widening in realization.

SALLY
I think the island is sinking.

SONIC

opens his knapsack, revealing a Power Ring.

SONIC (CONT'D)
Sal, press the Power Ring against the bars. Maybe it'll drain the juice. *

SALLY
I don't know, Sonic. There's a lot of energy involved here.

SONIC
Hey, you're always tellin' me I need a plan. Yo, <u>this</u> is a plan. *

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the Freedom Fighters look around to see the oil wells swaying. The ground continues to RUMBLE angrily.

SONIC (CONT'D)
No time to argue. We're gonna be up to our eyeballs in Great River in a few seconds. *

ANTOINE
Let us be doing <u>something</u>. I cannot sweem. *

SALLY

looks at Sonic.

SALLY
Okay. Keep your fingers crossed.

Everyone crosses their fingers. Antoine steps behind Bunnie and closes his eyes. Sally presses the Power Ring against the bars.

THE RING

glows brighter than ever, then begins to VIBRATE in Sally's hands. It PULSATES as if both it and the cell were about to explode!

SALLY

struggles to hold the Ring.

SONIC
Hold on, Sal! Hold on!

SALLY
(straining)
I can't...!!!

BUNNIE AND ANTOINE

grab hold as well and hang on for dear life. Their bodies start to glow.

ANGLE ON POWER RING

clutched in the joined hands of the Freedom Fighters. Then, it stops VIBRATING, but the intense glow remains. Antoine slowly opens one eye, then the other.

ANTOINE
Voila. It worked.

THE CELL

suddenly vaporizes. Sally hugs Sonic and kisses him on the cheek.

SALLY
That was a great plan, Sonic.

SONIC
Hey, I just figured that...

BUNNIE
I hate to be an ol' party pooper, y'all, but I got this sinkin' feeling...

They follow Bunnie's eyes to see that...

THE ISLAND

is sinking fast! Buildings, huts, oil derricks, etc. are quickly being swamped by the rising water.

SALLY (O.S.)
Oh my gosh.

SONIC
Sal, hold on to me, Bunnie you hold Sal, Ant grab Bunnie. *

He grabs the PULSATING Power Ring from Sally and lights up like a Christmas tree. *

SONIC (CONT'D)
We're gonna do some major juicin'. *

With more energy coursing through him than ever before, Sonic takes off like a bolt from the blue and ROARS off.

ANGLE

on the oil derrick that fell and bridged the River earlier. Sonic ZOOMS across with the others in tow as the River starts to pour over its banks, taking the bridge with it, section by section. *

ANTOINE
I tell you I cannot sweem! *

NEW ANGLE

As the derrick starts to collapse behind them like toppling dominoes, getting closer. *

ANTOINE AND BUNNIE - MOVING

look back over their shoulders and see...

THE DERRICK *

collapsing toward them.

ANTOINE
AAAAAHHHHHHHHHH!!

CUT TO:

EXT. BANK OF VERY GREAT RIVER (MAINLAND)

As Sonic and the others come flying off the derrick just as the last section plunges into the Great River and... *

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS *

come to a SKIDDING stop and look back across at... *

NIMBUS ISLAND

as it slowly sinks into the Great River, setting off a series of underground EXPLOSIONS that send up clouds of smoke and steam. *

SONIC *

looks at Sally. *

SONIC
Think ol' Butt-Nik's really history, Sal?

SALLY
I wish I knew, Sonic.
(pause)
I wish I knew.

WIPE TO:

EXT. KNOTHOLE - DAY

A peaceful afternoon. Sally and Sonic sit back to back beneath a tree.

SALLY
I'm no expert, Sonic, but my guess is that your bad dream was some kind of warning.
(pause)
So from now on you'll think before you act. Right?
(BEAT)
Sonic?

She turns to see...

SONIC

fast asleep, and from the ear-to-ear smile on his face, he's having a great dream.

SONIC
(asleep)
You are the most mondo beautiful thing I've ever seen...

Sally smiles, assuming he's talking about her.

SONIC (CONT'D)
You make my heart pound, my mouth water...

Sally's smile grows even wider.

SONIC (CONT'D)
There's nothin' like a chili dog. Yesss!

And as Sally REACTS, we...

FADE OUT.

THE END